The Royals

by

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E!
Lionsgate Television
Varsity Pictures

THE ROYALS

"Pilot"

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. PALACE - DAWN 1 1

We're watching the UNION FLAG raise above BUCKINGHAM PALACE at DAWN. We HEAR a GIRL'S VOICE. Eventually we'll come to know this girl as OPHELIA, 19.

OPHELIA (V.O.)
From the time I could speak, my father told me this was my role: Silent observer and keeper of secrets.

The scene is MAJESTIC. HONORABLE. Then...

OPHELIA (V.O.)
He said it was the only way to survive living so close to the royals.

CASTLE by MACKLEMORE & RYAN LEWIS SLAMS IN and we're...

2 INT. SILENCIO NIGHT CLUB - PARIS - NIGHT 1 2

...CRASHING past the velvet rope of David Lynch's cooler-than-you-club in Paris. We wind through the catacomb space, following the NAKED BACK of a barely, but couture-dressed MODEL, slithering through a crowded, rhythmic, grinding DANCE FLOOR. At the center of it all is ELEANOR, 20, DARK and SMOKY, unimpressed eyes at half-mast, a Molotov cocktail of all things extreme and excessive.

The MODEL, STELLA, 21, long and ridiculously beautiful, spies ELEANOR. Eleanor's eyes catch fire with a DEVILISH SPARK at the sight of her friend. Stella squeals and goes in for a hug. Eleanor shouts above the THROB of CASTLE.

ELEANOR
Bitch, your coked up ass better curtsy.

Stella curtsies. But she continues her curtsy until her face is nearly buried between Eleanor's legs. She slithers up Eleanor's body and they embrace and LAUGH. The MODEL appraises the two GUYS.

STELLA
Do we like them?

2 CONTINUED: 2

Eleanor SHRUGS, bored.

ELEANOR
No.

Eleanor takes Stella's hand and leads her away. The TWO GUYS try to follow but are instantly discouraged by SEVERAL PLAIN-CLOTHES BODYGUARDS.

3 INT. SILENCIO NIGHT CLUB - PARIS - CATACOMBS - NIGHT 1 3

As ELEANOR cuts through the crowd, several CAMERA PHONES are raised and quickly CONFISCATED or BROKEN by the BODYGUARDS without a WORD.

4 INT. SILENCIO NIGHT CLUB - PARIS - VIP CABANA - NIGHT 1 4

We JUMP CUT through the MAYHEM that is a NIGHT OUT with ELEANOR: Tequila shots, pints, cocaine, pills, kissing guys, kissing girls, disrobing a HOT GUY and drinking BODY SHOTS off his ABS, then bending him over, grabbing his hair and mock-defiling him. Open-mouth LAUGHING. Mascara-running CRYING. It's a SHIT SHOW. The GUARDS exchange glances. You get the sense that even for this girl, things are HEIGHTENED and a bit out of control.

5 INT. SILENCIO NIGHT CLUB - PARIS - VIP CABANA - NIGHT 1 5

Suddenly Eleanor is inspired to DANCE. She leaps onto the BOTTLE SERVICE TABLE but her Pigalle Studs betray her and she falls HARD. Her legs fly open and time begins to SLOW. But not before a HAND covertly snakes through the HUMAN WALL of SECURITY and SNAPS a PICTURE. Louboutins. Legs open. The song CASTLE ENDS, we FREEZE FRAME and MATCH SMASH TO...

6 INT. PALACE - KING'S STUDY - MORNING 2 6

...the FRONT PAGE of one of the MORNING TABLOIDS. The PICTURE now has a BLACK BOX pasted over Eleanor's panty-less CROTCH, underneath the HEADLINE: **ELEANORGY!**

WIDER, we ANGLE ON the KING. KING SIMON. A robust, handsome 55. He stands at a window looking out over his KINGDOM. Modern day LONDON. Nearby rests the remains of a small BREAKFAST and the MORNING PAPER with the controversial PHOTO. The KING is PENSIVE. He watches as the ROYAL HELICOPTER lands on the garden lawn, carrying Eleanor who lies aboard...

7 EXT. PALACE - GARDEN - MORNING 2 7

...PASSED OUT, mascara smeared, party dress rumpled, mouth open. Not even the drone of the helicopter can wake her.

8 INT. PALACE - KING'S STUDY - MORNING 2 8

The KING watches his daughter's arrival as his BUTLER, TRUMAN, also mid-50's, old-school prize fighter looks, now refined, enters behind him.

TRUMAN
Your Majesty?

He speaks with an AMERICAN BOSTON ACCENT. KING SIMON eyes him. Truman looks worse than the King.

KING SIMON
Christ, Truman. What else did she do? I can't imagine it can get any worse.

Truman holds a BEAT.

TRUMAN
It's not your daughter, Sir. It's your son. And I'm afraid it is worse.

Off Truman's GRAVE face we SMASH TO...

9 INT. LIAM'S DORM ROOM - MORNING 2 9

...the KING'S SON. LIAM. 20. Good hair, great abs, Liam is a royal rock star. He lies in bed next to a BEAUTIFUL young GIRL. A BEAT and Liam wakes. Clearly HUNGOVER.

10 INT. LIAM'S DORM ROOM - KITCHENETTE - MORNING 2 10

Liam stumbles to the small fridge in the next room, cracks a BOTTLE of WATER and DRINKS. When he turns back, he comes face to face with... MARCUS, 27. Black, Irish, chiseled. An honest man among vipers.

LIAM
Marcus. What the hell?

MARCUS
You need to return to the palace, Your Highness.

LIAM
Why? What's going on?

Marcus is perennially poker-faced. Especially now. The GIRL appears, looking bedheaded and glorious in Liam's T-shirt.

MARCUS
You too, Ophelia.

10 CONTINUED: 10

As Liam and Ophelia exchange wary glances, we...

11 INT. PALACE - KING AND QUEEN'S SUITE - MORNING 2 11

...ANGLE ON QUEEN HELENA. Surrounded by the REGAL OPULENCE of her DRAWING ROOM, Queen Helena, late 40's, is STRIKINGLY BEAUTIFUL. She has also perfected the art of the ICY GLARE.

She is meticulous and direct when she deals with the two people who control access to the King and Queen - THE LORD CHAMBERLAIN (LUCIUS), 50's, a bit of a dandy, and the PRIVATE SECRETARY (MARGARET), 70's, droll.

LUCIUS
...a fitting for the Garden Party, followed by the charity photo shoot, and Sir Elton John would like to pop 'round and say hello.

QUEEN HELENA
Pop 'round and say hello... You give them a title, and they treat the place like a Starbucks. It's not like he's Paul McCartney.

LUCIUS
The Queen is unfortunately indisposed. At half past twelve--

QUEEN HELENA
--just give me the book, Luscious.

The Lord Chamberlain hands the Queen a RED BOOK that we'll see often. It lists her life by the hour. She glances at it, as the Private Secretary leans in, tentatively.

MARGARET
I'm afraid there's also this.

Margaret hands over the MORNING TABLOIDS. The Queen glances at them and DARKENS a bit.

QUEEN HELENA
Walk away.

They do. As they exit, they pass an approaching ELEANOR. She of the "ELEANORGY." She looks a bit chagrined.

ELEANOR
Mom?

QUEEN HELENA
Don't "Mom" me, you disgraceful slag.

11 CONTINUED: 11

Helena shuffles through the morning papers.

QUEEN HELENA (CONT'D) (cont'd)
My daughter, the Princess, behaving like a common whore. But go on, amuse me. Explain this latest disgrace. But please Eleanor, come up with something original this time. Something I haven't heard before.

Eleanor eyes the Queen through vulnerable eyes.

ELEANOR
Robert's dead, mom.

As Helena eyes her daughter, King Simon appears. His face verifies the words. Helena turns her back to them to process this news and as she does, she spies...

12 EXT. PALACE - QUADRANGLE - MORNING 2 12

...Liam stepping from his chauffeured car. A BEAT and Ophelia also appears. The Queen's emotions turn ICY at the sight of Ophelia. Liam starts inside, escorted by Marcus. Ophelia remains behind, watching them go.

OPHELIA (V.O.)
I'll never forget the look on his face.

13 INT. PALACE - CORRIDOR - MORNING 2 13

Liam runs down the corridor toward his future.

OPHELIA (V.O.)
The bewildered boy who had just lost his brother.

14 INT. PALACE - QUEEN'S QUARTERS - MORNING 2 14

Liam arrives, breathless. His father, mother and sister all seeing him as the future King Of England for the first time.

OPHELIA (V.O.)
And in the same moment, had become the future King Of England.

We ANGLE ON LIAM as the loss of his brother and the implication of that loss washes over his face, and we...

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

15 INT. PALACE - STATE ROOM - MORNING 2 15

We follow Ophelia as she navigates the palace. She transitions from the OPULENT and REGAL STATE ROOMS to...

16 INT. PALACE - SERVICE CORRIDOR - MORNING 2 16

...the WORKING, SERVICE part of the palace. She steps onto an ELEVATOR whose DOORS OPEN to...

17 INT. PALACE - OPHELIA'S APARTMENT - MORNING 2 17

...a nice apartment. Within the walls of the Palace. Home.

Ophelia finds her father, TED, 40's, pacing, phone to ear.

TED
(into phone)
Military protocol is in our favor. It's imperative things remain anonymous and unremarkable. Fiona will handle press, and I'll personally escort the body--

Ted looks up and finds an abashed Ophelia approaching.

TED (cont'd)
(into phone)
I'm on my way.

Ted DISCONNECTS and eyes Ophelia who lingers for a BEAT.

OPHELIA
How did it happen?

TED
We're still gathering information.

OPHELIA
Is that the truth from my father, or the official response from the King's Head Of Security?

TED
It's the truth from your father. The same father who's grounding you for two weeks.

Ted steps away to gather his COAT, HAT, and HANDGUN.

17 CONTINUED: 17

TED (cont'd)
I go to your bedroom to find your bed empty, which can't be said for the Prince's bed, a fact I have to learn from one of my own men.

OPHELIA
Don't take it out on Marcus. He didn't know.

TED
Didn't know what, Ophelia?

A BEAT passes.

TED (cont'd)
And when the Queen asks her Head Of Security why he can't control his own daughter, what would you like me to say?

OPHELIA
You could tell her that I didn't attend Liam's college because you forbid it. That I'm a freshman with perfect grades living at home because--

TED
--Don't. You lied to me.

OPHELIA
Because I couldn't tell you the truth.

TED
You could have, you simply chose not to.

Ted starts away.

OPHELIA
You don't even know him.

TED
Which is exactly how it should be. I'm an employee, Ophelia. We live here under an unspoken code of distance and division. A code you well understand, otherwise you wouldn't be sneaking around behind my back with the future King Of England. I'm disappointed in you.

Ted starts away again. Ophelia calls to him, SOFTER.

17 CONTINUED: (2) 17

OPHELIA
Dad.

He turns back one more time. Then...

OPHELIA (cont'd)
You forgot your phone.

Ted crosses to retrieve his PHONE as Ophelia grabs a SPORTS BAG and starts away.

TED
Hey.

The ELEVATOR DOOR opens and she enters then turns back.

OPHELIA
I have practice. Then I'm going to check on the future King Of England. His brother's dead, you know. You remember how that feels?

Father and Daughter eye each other. Many words unsaid.

The ELEVATOR DOORS close as she leaves a frustrated Ted behind. We ANGLE ON a PORTRAIT. TED and his WIFE.

18 INT. PALACE - ELEANOR'S BEDROOM - DAY 2 18

Liam enters Eleanor's room. Her suite walks a fine line between old world regal and an angry suburban teenager's bedroom. She's HUNGOVER, drinking COFFEE and shooting FIVE HOUR ENERGY drinks. She looks like shit. So does he.

ELEANOR
I owed him a call. I promised him I'd call him last night, but...

She trails off as her CELL PHONE BUZZES on cue. Liam picks up one of the MORNING TABLOIDS.

LIAM
Nice work.

She SHRUGS, still dressed in her cocktail dress, as her PHONE incessantly VIBRATES. Finally she picks it up and throws it away without a glance.

ELEANOR
They're gonna come now. All of them.

LIAM
Maybe do Mom a favor and wear knickers.

18 CONTINUED: 18

ELEANOR
Mom can piss off.

LIAM
Maybe do Dad a favor then. It's good to see you, Len. Robert loved you most.

Liam starts away and Eleanor calls to him.

ELEANOR
Hey. This sucks, huh?

Eleanor steps to Liam and EMBRACES him. A sweet BEAT passes, then she casts her glance through the windows and...

ELEANOR (cont'd)
Oh no...

19 EXT. PALACE - QUADRANGLE - DAY 2 19

...we spy the arrival of PRINCESS PENELOPE, 24, a bit frumpy, and PRINCESS MARIBEL, 23, a bit SLUTTY. They're accompanied by a TEAM of ASSISTANTS, BODYGUARDS, a couple SMALL DOGS, and the attendant HYSTERIA.

20 INT. PALACE - GRAND ENTRANCE - DAY 2 20

Liam and Eleanor tentatively approach Penelope and Maribel who spy them and seize the opportunity to VENT, while being wrapped up by the DOG'S LEASHES.

PENELOPE
Oh. My. God. I will never fly commercial again. Where is our plane!?

MARIBEL
It's redic.

PENELOPE
It's recock. Saw your fanny on the front page, Len. Well done you.

Penelope hands the LEASHES to a FOOTMAN without a glance.

MARIBEL
How many people read the tabs, really? Three million? That's less than what's already seen your bits anyway.

They both remember they're supposed to curtsy to Liam and Eleanor. They do so, while mocking it.

20 CONTINUED: 20

PENELOPE
Whatever...

MARIBEL
Yadda yadda...

Then they EMBRACE them and give their CONDOLENCES. As genuinely as they can.

PENELOPE
Sorry about Bobby.

MARIBEL
Yeah. No fair.

A BEAT passes, then they recover completely from the moment.

MARIBEL (cont'd)
So is our Father about?

PENELOPE
That neglectful tosser.

With that, they head into the palace, and we...

21 INT. PALACE - BEDROOM - DAY 2 21

...ANGLE ON a COUPLE having SEX. We PULL AWAY, across the room to find a MAN watching them. CYRUS, mid 40's, slithery. If he's bored or titillated, we can't tell. A BEAT and there's a KNOCK ON the door.

CYRUS
No.

A BEAT passes, then another KNOCK.

CYRUS (cont'd)
(to couple)
Continue.

Cyrus crosses to the door and speaks through it.

CYRUS (cont'd)
What?

FOOTMAN (O.S.)
(through door)
Forgive me, your Grace, but it's urgent.

CYRUS
What is it?

21 CONTINUED: 21

FOOTMAN (O.S.)
I'm afraid it's of a delicate nature.
It concerns Robert.

CYRUS
Go on.

FOOTMAN (O.S.)
Well, it seems--

CYRUS
Speak up, for God sakes.

FOOTMAN (O.S.)
It seems there's been an accident.

CYRUS
And?

FOOTMAN (O.S.)
And... Robert's dead, Sir.

Cyrus stands there for a BEAT, processing this.

FOOTMAN (O.S.) (cont'd)
The King is asking for you.

CYRUS
You've done your duty.

FOOTMAN (V.O.)
Of course, Sir.

Another BEAT passes, then Cyrus turns back to find the COUPLE hastily dressing. The WOMAN averts her eyes while speaking.

WOMAN
My sincerest apologies, your Grace.

Cyrus rolls his eyes while crossing back to his chair.

CYRUS
My brother's son is dead.

He assumes his position, expecting them to continue.

CYRUS (cont'd)
The least you can do is finish.

The COUPLE lingers. Then they begin DISROBING again.

22 EXT. PALACE - DAY 2 22

The UNION JACK flies at HALF MAST now as A HUGE CROWD has gathered near the palace gates to pay their respects.

23 INT. CHURCHILL COLLEGE TRAINING CENTER - POOL - DAY 2 23

Ophelia swims in an Olympic-size swimming pool. She's fast. Clearly skilled. As she hits the wall and dives below the surface of the water, we FLASHBACK TO...

24 EXT. PALACE - NIGHT (FLASHBACK) 24

...a BLACK TIE EVENT, a LARGE CROWD, the KING and QUEEN wave, FLASH BULBS POP and then the SOUND OF A HANDGUN RINGS OUT, SCREAMS follow and...

25 INT. CHURCHILL COLLEGE TRAINING CENTER - POOL - DAY 2 25

...Ophelia SURFACES, obviously affected by the memory. WIDER, she looks small and vulnerable in the large pool.

26 INT. PALACE - BALLROOM - DAY 2 26

Liam sits alone in the cavernous ballroom, at Robert's closed CASKET, headphones on. A BEAT and Ophelia finds him there. He removes his HEADPHONES as she joins him. They sit for a MOMENT in silence. Ophelia takes his hand.

OPHELIA
When my mom died, I remember thinking there was nothing anyone could say or do to make the pain go away. But you found me and you made it better. Just by being there.

LIAM
So do you. I talked to him about you. A few months ago when I realized how much you were on my mind, it was Robert I confided in.

OPHELIA
You never told me that.

LIAM
He told me not to worry about the tabloids or my family or any of it. He said "If you like her, own it and be happy. Don't worry about the rest of it. It's not about them."

Liam REMEMBERS the moment. The counsel. He eyes Ophelia.

26 CONTINUED: 26

LIAM (cont'd)
I wish I would have listened to him. Did your Father lose his mind?

OPHELIA
Yeah.

LIAM
I'm sorry for asking you to keep it a secret.

OPHELIA
I knew what I was doing. Besides, including my father and the rest of the world would have been way more difficult. Does the Queen know?

On cue, the King and Queen enter and spy them holding hands.

LIAM
She does now.

Ophelia stands and curtsies.

OPHELIA
Words can't express how sorry I am.

QUEEN HELENA
For which?

Ophelia meets the Queen's gaze, then drops her head.

QUEEN HELENA (cont'd)
Could you excuse us?

OPHELIA
Of course, Your Majesty.

Ophelia exits. Liam and his parents sit for a BEAT. Then...

QUEEN HELENA
In case you've forgotten, you're neither a Footman nor Harry from One Direction.

LIAM
Can we just grieve like a normal family?

QUEEN HELENA
We are not a normal family. You're the Heir to the Throne for godsakes. As for the girl--

26 CONTINUED: (2) 26

KING SIMON
--what is she like?

The KING enters the discussion.

KING SIMON (cont'd)
Ophelia.

QUEEN HELENA
It doesn't matter what "she's like". Her Father is an employee. He's--

LIAM
--the man who faced an assassination attempt, and in a split second chose duty and honor and courageously saved Great Britain's King. And lost his wife in that same moment.

This HANGS there as they sit in front of the CASKET.

LIAM (cont'd)
He chose duty over love. I can't imagine the fortitude it would take to do such a thing. She's a lot like him. That's what she's like.

With that, Liam steps away. The Queen watches him go, then approaches her son's coffin. Simon joins her and reaches for his wife. She CRIES. A mother's tears.

They stand in the expanse of the ballroom, grieving parents. Then, in the distance, a FOOTMAN enters and stops abruptly.

As the Footman retreats hastily, the Queen recovers and her Royal FACADE returns. She finds her posture and Robert's Mother gives way to the country's Queen. She starts away.

KING SIMON
Helena. Don't go. When a mother loses her first born son, I believe she's allowed to cry.

QUEEN HELENA
Not when she's the Queen.

Helena wipes away a final tear and exits, upright and regal.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

27 EXT. PALACE - DAY 3 27

The CROWD outside the gates of the PALACE has grown. FIONA, late 20's, pretty if not a bit plastic, stands with a MICROPHONE in hand and not a single hair out of place.

FIONA
(on camera)
And so the world gathers to pay their respects and say goodbye to Prince Robert, taken suddenly and far too soon at the age of 23. Charismatic. Compassionate. Robert was God-like in the eyes of Britain and the world.

28 INT. PALACE - MUSIC ROOM - DAY 3 28

From a perch inside the palace, Liam watches and LISTENS.

FIONA
(on camera)
He was Britain's beloved son, and he, like all the Royals, loved the people with all his heart.

CYRUS (O.S.)
God how I loathe those people.

Cyrus joins Liam and looks down on the throng with DISDAIN.

CYRUS (cont'd)
Draped in their football jerseys and their false sentiment. You can practically smell them from here.

ELEANOR (O.S.)
I would've thought you'd be happier, dear Uncle.

Eleanor enters looking muted, but still gorgeous. She sidles up and joins their view of the CROWD.

ELEANOR (cont'd)
After all, you're one step closer to the throne. Now all you have to do is wait for your brother to die and then kill Liam.

She says it matter-of-fact. Then she eyes him, bored.

28 CONTINUED: 28

ELEANOR (cont'd)
And kill me too, of course.

CYRUS
The drugs will do that. And if not, the syphilis will drive you mad and they'll declare you unfit to rule. Either way, win win.

ELEANOR
Speaking of syphilis, you probably should've had your whore of an ex-wife checked before those two were born...

Eleanor motions over her shoulder as Penelope and Maribel arrive, looking affright.

PENELOPE
Ew, what's that smell? Is that your feet?

MARIBEL
I thought it was your fanny.

PENELOPE
It well could be in this boiler.

Behind them, Ted also enters with the King and Queen. Ophelia, Marcus and MANY OTHERS trail behind - some STAFF, some SECURITY, others ROYAL GUESTS.

TED
The cars are waiting per your assignments. Should you have any questions or concerns, please consult The Lord Chamberlain, the Private Secretary, or myself.

Liam crosses to the Queen.

LIAM
I'd like Ophelia to ride with us.

QUEEN HELENA
Don't be absurd. Ophelia has her place and so do you.

Helena steps away. A frustrated Liam eyes Ophelia as...

29 INT. PALACE - MUSIC ROOM - DAY 3 29

...Truman joins the King who takes in the crowd, his mind somewhere in the past with Robert.

29 CONTINUED: 29

KING SIMON
Our wonder is diminished today, my old friend.

TRUMAN
That it is. And greatly so.

Truman retrieves a FLASK from his UNIFORM and offers it to the KING. The KING drinks as Truman acknowledges the crowd.

TRUMAN (cont'd)
They come because he was majestic, our Robert. And his glory was a reflection of his father.

KING SIMON
Who failed him.

TRUMAN
Not for a moment. Robert was just as proud of his old man as his old man was of him. And both of them worthy of it.

The King appreciates this. Then...

KING SIMON
He could have been magnificent.

TRUMAN
He was.

Truman steps away, leaving the King very much alone.

30 EXT. ROYAL CEMETARY - DAY 3 30

The MASSES and PRESS surround the cemetary, watching from a distance as Robert is laid to rest in a very public, structured funeral. Controlled, regal grieving. A PRIEST stands before the family and guests. We ANGLE ON KING SIMON.

PRIEST
"And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new."

Then Liam.

PRIEST (cont'd)
"And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful."

Then Queen Helena.

30 CONTINUED: 30

PRIEST (cont'd)
"And he said unto me, It is done."

Then Eleanor and Cyrus, Penelope and Maribel.

PRIEST (cont'd)
"I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely."

Then we return to Simon and Liam.

PRIEST (cont'd)
"He that overcometh shall inherit all things. And I will be his God, and he shall be my son."

The CEREMONY CONCLUDES as a BOY'S CHOIR sings "Dominus regit me" in Latin. Liam catches Ophelia gazing at a TOMBSTONE in the distance. The Queen glances at him as he STANDS.

QUEEN HELENA
Sit down. Liam.

But Liam ignores her. Instead, he takes a FLOWER from Robert's casket, takes Ophelia by the hand, and leads her away. Eleanor nearly GRINS as Helena bites back her emotions, antagonized by the WHIRL of HUNDREDS of CAMERAS.

31 EXT. CEMETARY - OPHELIA'S MOTHER'S GRAVE - DAY 3 31

Ophelia and Liam cross through the cemetary.

OPHELIA
The Queen is going to lose her mind.

Liam eyes her confidently.

LIAM
This isn't about my mom. It's about yours.

They arrive at the HEADSTONE. Liam leaves the FLOWER.

LIAM (cont'd)
(to the headstone)
Hi, Mrs. Pryce.

OPHELIA
Hi, Mom.

Ophelia rests a HAND on the stone. A BEAT passes.

31 CONTINUED: 31

LIAM
They wrote a speech for me. To give to the press. "We lost more than a man or a Prince. We lost a beacon. The kind on which a nation relies to confer legitimacy and create unity." My brother dies and they script my feelings.

OPHELIA
I think it will be like that now. You're the next King of England.

LIAM
Which is mad. That was Robert's destiny, not mine.

They CONSIDER this for a MOMENT.

LIAM (cont'd)
The Heir and the Spare.

Ophelia reaches for him, then glances at the PRESS. All cameras are trained on them. She decides against it.

OPHELIA
You should go back. It's not fair to Robert or your family. But thank you.

LIAM
Sorry about the cameras. We inherited the spectacle and everything that comes with it. You didn't.

He starts away and the CAMERAS CLICK their CONCERTO.

OPHELIA
Hey. Don't for a second think that any of this is bigger than you, because it's not. I promise.

Liam appreciates this. A BEAT and he walks away.

32 EXT. CEMETARY - DAY 3 32

Liam returns to a simmering HELENA.

QUEEN HELENA
You give your quote to Fiona, you acknowledge the crowd, and you escort me to the car. Now.

Liam does as instructed. They step to Fiona, on camera.

32 CONTINUED: 32

FIONA
Prince Liam, with heavy hearts we offer our condolences as a grieving nation.

Fiona proffers the MICROPHONE to Liam who glances at Robert's COFFIN. A BEAT and he opts to speak from the heart.

LIAM
One of the great things about my brother was that he wasn't afraid to be his own man. I'll miss him.

With those pointed words, Liam eyes his mother, then crosses to the car, acknowledges the CROWD and climbs inside.

33 INT. LIMOUSINE - DAY 3 33

With King Simon still at the grave site, Helena joins LIAM and ELEANOR in the LIMOUSINE. Eleanor has fixed a DRINK. Once they're closed inside, the Queen instantly goes from a publicly grieving mother to a not to be fucked with SHREW.

QUEEN HELENA
My. God. You beastly cunts. Your brother, my first born son, and you can't find the decorum, the civility, to honor his memory. How dare you?

ELEANOR
Was that scripted, too?

Liam looks away, watching his father at Robert's grave and avoiding the drama as the Queen checks her FACE in a mirror.

QUEEN HELENA
We script it because we can't trust either of you to express a reasonably coherent thought.

ELEANOR
Yeah. God forbid we appear incoherent when our brother dies. Or sad. You might try it, Queen.

QUEEN HELENA
You little bitch. I'm disconsolate.

LIAM
Really? Because the King is out there genuinely grieving the death of his son, while you're in here worrying about the family's image and topping off on the Botox.

33 CONTINUED: 33

He barely gets the sentence out before Helena SLAPS him.

QUEEN HELENA
At least I'm not slumming with the help. And she's so fucking plain.

SILENCE. The Queen checks her FACE again and MUTTERS...

QUEEN HELENA (cont'd)
Richard III had it right. Lock the kids in the tower and be done with them...

Liam and Eleanor glance at each other.

LIAM
Maybe Henry the Eighth had it right. He just killed *his* wives. One of them because she looked fat.

ELEANOR
Yeah, you might want to step up the Pilates, Mother.

The Queen eyes them, her eyes growing GLASSY now.

QUEEN HELENA
They always take the good ones.

She says it vulnerably. Honestly. Eleanor matches her tone.

ELEANOR
How did Robert die? All they'll tell us was that it was a military accident.

QUEEN HELENA
That's all you need to know.

ELEANOR
Well whatever it was, good for him. If you ask me, Robert's the lucky one.

As Eleanor meets her mother's furious glare...

34 EXT. CEMETARY - DAY 3 34

...at the grave, King Simon quietly grieves over the loss of his son. A HUNDRED CAMERAS capturing a father's grief.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

35 INT. PALACE - STATE DINING ROOM - EVENING 4 35

A quiet dinner in the state dining room. A regular meal to the Royal family. To us, ridiculously grandiose. The King and Queen, Liam, Eleanor and Cyrus are joined by Penelope and Maribel. Robert's chair is left NOTICEABLY EMPTY.

LIAM
I thought I might take some time off from school. Check up on Robert's charities.

QUEEN HELENA
I would think your studies would prove to be a welcome distraction.

Maribel sneaks Eleanor a PILL as Cyrus steals a glance at the thigh highs that peek out from beneath the SERVER'S uniform.

ELEANOR
Speaking of welcome distractions...

They all turn, surprised to find OPHELIA lingering.

LIAM
I asked Ophelia to join us.

As Ophelia approaches, Eleanor covertly pops her PILL. Ophelia curtsies and goes to take a chair. Robert's chair. Everyone tightens up at this. Liam guides her to his right.

LIAM (cont'd)
Sit here.

King Simon smiles at Ophelia.

KING SIMON
Ophelia Pryce, artist in residence.

Ophelia blushes a bit, then explains.

OPHELIA
For His Royal Highness's Silver Jubilee, I presented him with a very serious work of art.

KING SIMON
As I recall, you were working in the paste and yarn medium at the time.

35 CONTINUED: 35

OPHELIA
I retired shortly thereafter, so the value of that work should be equitable to the value of vintage yarn and paste.

The KING is AMUSED.

KING SIMON
What is your focus now?

OPHELIA
Art History at Churchill.

LIAM
Ophelia's on the swim team.

QUEEN HELENA
Which is grand news, indeed, as the Prime Minister was recently expressing a concern over the shortage of aquatic Art Historians. Your prospects must be, as they say, "swimming".

ELEANOR
Well, she's dating the next King Of England, so she's got that going for her.

Eleanor raises her glass and toasts Ophelia, not sarcastically but as an ally.

CYRUS
It's good that you're here, Ophelia. You can give us the common point of view. How is the public fairing in the wake of Robert's death?

LIAM
I think we'll go--

Liam begins to rise, but Ophelia eyes Cyrus.

OPHELIA
--Robert carried himself with a nobility and grace that was easy to admire. He was inspiring and he was our's, and his absence is bottomless and always will be. But I can only speak from this commoner's perspective.

The KING studies Ophelia. Appreciates her.

35 CONTINUED: (2) 35

KING SIMON
Please. Stay. Cyrus will stand down, as will my beloved Queen, and if they don't, I have no doubt you'll make them wish they had.

Liam and Ophelia sit.

KING SIMON (cont'd)
I appreciate your kind words, Ophelia. I do. But now let me tell you what everyone's thinking but no one will say. Robert joined the military because I did. Just as my father did, and my father's father and so on. He was killed by tradition.

CYRUS
He died a hero's death. A noble death.

KING SIMON
Which merely means he's dead. Why?

QUEEN HELENA
I believe I've lost my appetite.

Helena begins to rise.

KING SIMON
I think you'll want to stay to hear this next part, my love. I think you all will. So put down your phones and your drugs and your lust for the server's sponge and pay attention.

A BEAT follows. Then...

KING SIMON (cont'd)
I'm considering asking Parliament for a referendum. To abolish the Monarchy.

SILENCE. Then... Maribel raises her hand.

PENELOPE
Um... What does that mean exactly?

ELEANOR
It means you have to get a job.

Penelope GASPS.

35 CONTINUED: (3) 35

CYRUS
A vote, idiot of my loins. To eradicate us. To erase us.

MARIBEL
Who votes?

CYRUS
The people.

MARIBEL
But they can't do that. I mean, they're the people. And we're... Us.

CYRUS
They can and they have. Ever heard of America?

PENELOPE
But... I don't want to be American. And walk around like Justin Bieber with no shirt on and my trousers falling off.

ELEANOR
He's Canadian.

PENELOPE
Even worse. They can't make us be Canadian, can they Daddy? Canadian and poor like Justin Bieber?

Cyrus ignores them and eyes the King.

CYRUS
The British Monarchy has always been and always will be.

KING SIMON
"Always will be" killed Robert.

Another SILENCE passes.

KING SIMON (cont'd)
George Washington was right. He could have been King Of America. He turned it down.

CYRUS
And yet, every year millions of Americans travel to London to see our palace. To touch our history. Where do they go in America? Disneyland.

35 CONTINUED: (4) 35

KING SIMON
And you find that comforting?

CYRUS
What I find comforting is that we have a head of state distinct from our head of government. A figure immune to the corrupting influence of special interests. The people need the monarchy.

KING SIMON
The people need bread and jobs and a decent wage. They don't need us.

CYRUS
With all due respect my King, how would you know?

A SILENT BEAT passes. We ANGLE ON LIAM, wheels turning. And then the Queen. Poker faced, as always.

36 INT. PALACE - KING'S SUITE - NIGHT 4 36

The King is in his suite, gazing out at London. Truman is retrieving a bottle of BLANTON'S, some ICE and a GLASS.

KING SIMON
Truman. I need a favor.

37 INT. PALACE - KITCHEN - NIGHT 4 37

We spy Truman from the back as he leaves his evening service tray, slips into his cap and exits without a word.

38 INT. PALACE - KING AND QUEEN'S SUITE - NIGHT 4 38

The Queen enters and finds the King in bed, concealed in shadow. She switches on a LAMP and begins UNDRESSING.

QUEEN HELENA
I know you're tired. And despondent over Robert. But honestly it was out of character of you to speak so carelessly about the family. Referendums and Parliament and disbanding the Monarchy. It's all so dramatic. Frankly, it's weak, and less than who you are.

She turns to find... TRUMAN. Standing at attention next to the bed. Wearing the King's ROYAL PAJAMAS.

38 CONTINUED: 38

TRUMAN
Forgive me, Your Majesty. You see...

He pauses, finally registering that the Queen is standing before him mostly naked. His eyes take her in.

TRUMAN (cont'd)
My God, it's good to be the King.

39 EXT. LONDON - NIGHT 4 39

The King navigates London - its wonder and its struggles.

40 INT. PALACE - OPHELIA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 4 40

Ophelia steps off the elevator to find her father working.

TED
It wasn't your place to be seen at Robert's funeral. Not like that. And certainly not with the Prince.

OPHELIA
He reached for my hand. How do you think the press would have reacted if I hadn't taken it? At least I visited her grave. Did you?

TED
I was working. The King's welfare is never ending.

OPHELIA
The King's welfare.

Ophelia eyes her father, then opts not to say more and starts away. He speaks to her back.

TED
If you have something to say, say it.

OPHELIA
All right, I will. I know you think dating Liam is dangerous for me. Because being close to the Royal Family got Mom killed. But it's not the same thing. Some deluded, deranged, broken person tried to kill the King and shot Mom instead. And whatever guilt you have about it sucks, Dad. Because you did your job perfectly. You protected the King. And we lost her. But you didn't kill her.

40 CONTINUED: 40

TED
Being close to them is dangerous, Ophelia. And frankly, it's not fair to me.

OPHELIA
It's not fair to you. Well it's not fair to me to ask me to pass up my dream school because Liam goes there. It's not fair to me that I have to live at home so that you won't be alone. Because you know what, Dad? You're still alone. We're two alone people who happen to live under the same roof. And what's really not fair, is that you don't want me to be close to the one person who makes me feel less alone, but you didn't even take a single day off when Mom died. Not one day. You're close to them 24 hours a day. You think that's fair?

Ted eyes her for a LONG BEAT. Then... The ELEVATOR RINGS.

OPHELIA (cont'd)
I love you, and I want you to be proud of me. But I'm still here, and I have a life to live. We both do.

The ELEVATOR DOORS open and LIAM appears. Ophelia switches GEARS and finds a SMILE for Liam.

OPHELIA (cont'd)
Hey. Come in...

Liam enters and NODS at Ted.

LIAM
Hi, Mr. Pryce.

TED
Your Highness.

Ted BOWS his head, then exits. Ophelia watches him go, then takes Liam's hand and leads him toward her bedroom.

LIAM
Your dad hates me.

OPHELIA
Almost as much as your Mom hates me.

Ophelia tries to find a SMILE.

40 CONTINUED: (2) 40

LIAM
You all right?

OPHELIA
Yeah. C'mon.

She drags him into her room as...

41 INT. PALACE - CYRUS'S SUITE - NIGHT 4 41

...the female SERVER from dinner tentatively enters Cyrus's room.

SERVER
You asked for me, Your Grace?

Cyrus looks up from POURING a DRINK.

CYRUS
Yes. Please, come in. Regrettably, there have been complaints about your efforts. Enthusiasm of service, that sort of thing. I wanted to give you a chance to convince me otherwise.

The Server begins to TEAR UP.

SERVER
I assure you this is the first I'm hearing of it. I'll do better. I have two children. I can't be on the dole.

CYRUS
Of course. You're shaking. Am I really so intimidating?

SERVER
It's just... Well, I've heard things.

CYRUS
Oh? What kinds of things?

The Server eyes Cyrus timidly, her eyes GLASSY.

SERVER
That...some of the women have had to do things to keep their jobs. With you.

Cyrus is AMUSED by this.

CYRUS
You've heard that they had to have sex with me?

41 CONTINUED: 41

SERVER
Yes, Sir.

CYRUS
Well I can assure you it's not the case, nor was it my intention when I asked you here. So please, relax.

The Server NODS. Breathes a SIGH of relief.

CYRUS (cont'd)
I'm simply looking for a token display of your dedication. In a service capacity.

Cyrus sits into his chair.

CYRUS (cont'd)
Besides, even the President Of The United States said it wasn't sex.

He unbuttons and loosens his TROUSERS.

CYRUS (cont'd)
And remember, enthusiasm counts.

Cyrus leans back and waits.

42 INT. PALACE - ELEANOR'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 4 42

Eleanor pulls Penelope and Maribel into her bedroom.

ELEANOR
Oh, look who it is. Slag One and Slag Two. Get in here, you daft bitches.

They enter and scan her room.

PENELOPE
Len, I double love this. It's so you in here.

ELEANOR
Yeah, well I double hate you whores. This isn't the palace tour. If it were you'd be wearing Top Shop.

MARIBEL
Ew.

ELEANOR
Spill.

42 CONTINUED: 42

Penelope and Maribel eye each other. Then...

PENELOPE
Maribel got an STD from the Archduke of Winderbury.

Eleanor SAGS.

ELEANOR
Your bags, you cows. Drugs. Give.

They clue in and dump their bags: Adderall, birth control pills, some weed. Eleanor grabs the Adderall and the WEED.

ELEANOR (cont'd)
I'll take this and this...

She leaves the BIRTH CONTROL pills behind.

ELEANOR (cont'd)
...and leave you this, God forbid we get any more the likes of you.

MARIBEL
Penelope doesn't get high. She says it makes her queasy. She's also a virgin.

PENELOPE
Just a vaggy virgin. Not a blowy or a handy.

ELEANOR
Now I'm queasy. Well you're getting high tonight. Both of you. Just not here. Come on...

43 INT. PALACE - THRONE ROOM - NIGHT 4 43

The THRONE ROOM. The most dramatic room in the PALACE. Eleanor lights a BONG for PENELOPE who inhales into a COUGHING fit. Eleanor and Maribel laugh at her.

ELEANOR
Maybe you'll be better at shagging. Although I doubt it.

Eleanor motions for the BONG and Penelope hands it over.

MARIBEL
I can't believe Robert's gone. He would've been a stellar King, yeah?

43 CONTINUED: 43

PENELOPE
If there's even going to be another King.

MARIBEL
Yeah. What of that? Do you think your Dad was serious?

ELEANOR
When is he not?

PENELOPE
Can you imagine it? Not being a Princess? I'm just not qualified to do anything else.

MARIBEL
Oh, I dunno. I could do all kinds of things. Like run a company or serve tea at the Ritz. You know. "Would you like another pot, Ladies? With some finger cakes? Perhaps a sweet?" That sort of thing.

ELEANOR
Food. I'm starving.

Eleanor rises and starts away, completely HIGH.

PENELOPE
I can't feel my legs.

Maribel SNICKERS and then FALLS OVER in the midst of a GIGGLE FIT. Eleanor leaves them there.

PENELOPE (cont'd)
I need assistance. Len?

44 INT. PALACE - OPHELIA'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT 4 44

Ophelia lies with her head on Liam's chest. Clothes on.

LIAM
It's not lost on me. The timing of it all.

OPHELIA
What timing?

LIAM
My Father. Abolishing the Monarchy. Because of me. Because he no longer has a worthy successor.

44 CONTINUED: 44

Ophelia eyes him, incredulous.

OPHELIA
He's grieving over Robert.

LIAM
I know he is. But that's only half of it. I'm the other half.

Liam sits up, considering it all.

LIAM (cont'd)
It's OK, ya know? I mean he's right. I remember the day I realized that Robert was going to be the next King and I never would be. And I remember feeling relieved. I felt the same way at dinner tonight.

Liam eyes Ophelia honestly. Without a hint of drama.

LIAM (cont'd)
At least your Dad'll be happy.

He tries to find a GRIN. Ophelia leans close.

OPHELIA
If you don't want to be King or you never become one, that's fine by me. Maybe I could finally wear a thong without worrying about the paparazzi. But what I don't accept is that you think you couldn't be King. A good one. A great one.

Liam HOLDS her gaze. He speaks seriously. Vulnerably.

LIAM
I don't want to be King. Not if you're going to start wearing thongs.

He tries not to smile.

LIAM (cont'd)
Take the kingdom. I still win.

She CHUCKLES. They KISS.

45 INT. PALACE - KITCHEN - NIGHT 4 45

The KING slips into the palace through the kitchen. Eleanor talks with her mouth full.

45 CONTINUED: 45

ELEANOR
Is that the King Of England skulking about?

He spies her. She's sitting on the counter eating a CREAM PIE straight from the TIN.

ELEANOR (cont'd)
Fancy some? It was reserved for the Prime Minister but that fat bastard doesn't need any more pie.

Eleanor SNORTS a CHUCKLE at her joke. The KING retrieves a BOTTLE of MILK and pours two glasses. He grabs a spare plate and FORK and joins his daughter. She cuts him a piece.

ELEANOR (cont'd)
I could always sell pastries. If you disband the Monarchy. Which I'm all for, by the way.

KING SIMON
Something tells me your opinion is in the minority.

ELEANOR
When has that mattered? You follow your heart. You trust your instincts. That's what makes you great. A great King. And a kind of OK father.

The King nearly smiles at this while eating the pie.

ELEANOR (cont'd)
So I say make some noise. Blow the place to shite. Let them eat pie.

KING SIMON
Especially if it's this pie. The Prime Minister is sorely missing out, that poor fat bastard. Delicious.

Eleanor CHUCKLES.

KING SIMON (cont'd)
How are you?

ELEANOR
I'm sad. But I'm baked out of my mind, so right now I'm well.

45 CONTINUED: (2) 45

KING SIMON
They worry about you. Your mother. Liam.

ELEANOR
Not you?

KING SIMON
Not as much.

ELEANOR
Thanks a lot.

KING SIMON
Go to bed. Do better tomorrow. I'm the King, you have to do as I say.

Simon gives her a sweet kiss on the forehead and starts away. At the door to the shadowy kitchen he turns back.

KING SIMON (cont'd)
If those qualities make me great, I see the same in you every day. Don't medicate all that wonder. Robert loved you with all his heart. And so do I. And you deserve that.

The King leaves her there to consider his words, pie in hand.

46 INT. PALACE - KING AND QUEEN'S SUITE - NIGHT 4 46

The King slides into bed. A BEAT and the Queen speaks through the darkness.

QUEEN HELENA
Let me recap my week for you. My daughter's vagina was on the cover of no less than four tabloids, my firstborn child was killed, my husband announced that he wants to abolish the only life I've ever known, and his Footman nearly saw my twat.

KING SIMON
I miss him. With every breath. And what tears at me is the knowledge that he could have been anything in the world. He was strong and smart and good. His goodness was uncommon.

The KING CONSIDERS it all for a MOMENT, lying in the darkness.

46 CONTINUED: 46

KING SIMON (cont'd)
I won't lose another son to this. Or a daughter.

QUEEN HELENA
They're my children, too. And they're no worse than any other kids their age.

KING SIMON
Our daughter was "rolling balls" in the state dining room. Now she's stoned and eating the Prime Minister's pie. Look at us. I've lost myself in this. We've lost Robert. It has to end.

The King exits the bed. A BEAT and the Queen rises and turns on a bedside light.

QUEEN HELENA
You know it's my life, too. Your brother. His children.

KING SIMON
And all of them are less than they should be. And so am I. And frankly, so are you. I'm not sure if ending this will heal any of us, but staying the same will destroy us.

QUEEN HELENA
The English Crown has been protected and defended for thousands of years, from clans with sticks through World Wars, legions of lives lost--

KING SIMON
--but not this one. Our son.

The Queen SNEERS at him.

QUEEN HELENA
You are the King of England, Goddamnit. Act like it.

KING SIMON
That's exactly what I intend to do.

The Queen scrutinizes her husband. Knows he means it.

47 INT. PALACE - CYRUS'S SUITE - NIGHT 4 47

Cyrus opens his door to find the Queen waiting.

47 CONTINUED: 47

CYRUS
My Queen. What's wrong?

QUEEN HELENA
I need to speak with you. In confidence.

CYRUS
Of course. Come in.

Cyrus steps aside. The Queen enters. She steps to his bar and pours two fingers of whiskey. She shoots it.

CYRUS (cont'd)
Yes, I'd love one, thank you.

QUEEN HELENA
There is an increasing desire to define greatness as something other than wealth, territory, and power. In the world, and within the walls of this palace. I say to hell with that.

CYRUS
Go on.

QUEEN HELENA
The Monarchy must be preserved. Even if King Simon... Is no longer King.

Cyrus eyes her for a long BEAT.

CYRUS
Meaning.

QUEEN HELENA
Meaning I am the Queen Of England, and I will die the Queen Of England.

CYRUS
Possibly in prison.

QUEEN HELENA
You've never had a moral bone in your body, Cyrus. Don't fail me now.

CYRUS
Well unless I'm as daft as my daughters, God help us all, you're suggesting that you're going to kill my brother. The King Of England.

47 CONTINUED: (2) 47

QUEEN HELENA
No. I'm suggesting that you're going to kill your brother, the King Of England.

CYRUS
How many Ambien did you take? Even if Parliament were to support a referendum, which I'm not sure they would, the people won't vote for Patriotism. They love King Simon.

QUEEN HELENA
And they'll love King Cyrus, as well.

Cyrus eyes her. He's suspicious. But intrigued.

CYRUS
Liam is next in line.

QUEEN HELENA
Technically. For now. I have a plan.

CYRUS
Perhaps this is a trick. A test of my loyalty.

QUEEN HELENA
Or maybe this is the moment you stood at the crossroads and were offered everything you've ever desired.

The Queen begins to disrobe.

QUEEN HELENA (cont'd)
The crown. The Queen. All of it.

She slithers up to him, all raw sexuality. Naked.

CYRUS
God Save the Queen.

They KISS. Conspirators. Traitors. And soon... Murderers.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

48 INT. PALACE - THRONE ROOM - MORNING 5 48

Penelope and Maribel are PASSED OUT in the King and Queen's THRONES. WIDER, the Queen scrutinizes them. Displeased.

49 EXT. PALACE - QUADRANGLE - MORNING 5 49

The TEAM of ASSISTANTS load a CAR as Penelope and Maribel are dispatched with no fanfare. Liam And Eleanor linger nearby.

PENELOPE
OK, we'll just be off then...

MARIBEL
I guess our father's not--

One of their DOGS BARKS. LOUDLY.

MARIBEL (cont'd)
Oh, dear God. Would you like him?

They stumble into halfhearted, HUNGOVER curtsies.

MARIBEL (cont'd)
Whatever...

PENELOPE
Ow...

They fumble into the car as the DOG BARKS again.

PENELOPE (cont'd)
Oh shut up. If this were Asia we could eat you with mushy peas.

And with a close of the door, they're gone. Almost.

MARIBEL (O.S.)
For God sakes do not slam the bloody door!

PENELOPE (O.S.)
Stop shouting!

MARIBEL (O.S.)
I'll shout if I bloody want to!

PENELOPE (O.S.)
Your breath smells like a fart.

49 CONTINUED: 49

The car departs, BARKING DOGS and QUARRELING PRINCESSES away.

50 INT. CHURCHILL COLLEGE TRAINING CENTER - POOL - MORNING 5 50

Ophelia enters practice for her COLLEGE SWIM TEAM, clad in a one piece swim suit. She's instantly accosted by LUCY, 20, devilish. Lucy speaks in BURSTS.

LUCY
Hey look it's my BFF Ophelia who didn't tell her BFF Lucy that she was F-ing HRH Liam.

Ophelia tries to reply, but Lucy verbally runs her over.

LUCY (cont'd)
Before I forget, so sorry about Prince Robert, how's Liam in bed? He's good, right? Like "future King Of England" good? It's so wrong that you didn't tell me. How long have the two of you been sneaking about? Sebastian's gonna be crushed-- Oo, I'm totally gonna be Sebastian's rebound sex. Thanks, Phi, you're the best.

OPHELIA
Hi, Lucy.

LUCY
Oh, B.T.Dubs, there's a bunch of paparazzi here.

On cue they turn a corner and are accosted by a HUGE THRONG OF PAPARAZZI. Ophelia is STUNNED. Lucy strikes a POSE.

51 INT. PALACE - OPHELIA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 5 51

Ophelia steps off the elevator to find Ted waiting for her.

OPHELIA
Sorry I'm late. Practice was--

She falls quiet when she also finds Queen Helena waiting. Ophelia curtsies.

OPHELIA (cont'd)
Your Majesty.

52 INT. PALACE - ART EXHIBIT - NIGHT 5 52

The Queen walks Ophelia through the latest exhibit of their MULTI-BILLION DOLLAR COLLECTION of RARE ART.

52 CONTINUED: 52

QUEEN HELENA
I thought you might like a peek at our new exhibit. Perhaps one day you'll become a curator and look after our little collection.

OPHELIA
It's breathtaking.

Ophelia takes in the collection.

QUEEN HELENA
I'd like you to break up with my son.

And there it is. Ophelia eyes her, doesn't know what to say.

QUEEN HELENA (cont'd)
I want Liam to return to school and focus on his studies. But he recently mentioned taking some time off, and I suspect it's because he'd like to stay here with you.

OPHELIA
Have I offended you in some manner, Your Majesty?

QUEEN HELENA
It's not that I disapprove of you. I disapprove of the timing. Liam has the weight of the world on his shoulders, and the scrutiny that will no doubt accompany your relationship is stress he doesn't need. Once things get better, if it's meant to be, I'll be more than happy to give you my blessing. Surely, you want the best for him.

OPHELIA
Of course I do.

QUEEN HELENA
Then I'm asking you to do this for him. For me. We'll consider it our little secret. You can tell him you need to focus on your swimming and your studies and spend more time with your father.

Ophelia eyes the Queen. What's she getting at?

52 CONTINUED: (2) 52

QUEEN HELENA (cont'd)
Some people feel as though your father is getting a little old for his line of work, but of course, I would never allow him to be replaced, considering the favor you'd be doing for me.

Ophelia connects the dots. Cornered.

OPHELIA
I'll need some time. To let him down easy.

QUEEN HELENA
I think it would better to do it quick. If his heart gets a bit dented in the process, well, men have reached great heights with wounded hearts.

Ophelia can't meet her gaze.

QUEEN HELENA (cont'd)
I know it's not what you want. But if your mother could see you right now, she'd be proud of the beautiful young woman you've become.

The Queen wraps an arm around Ophelia's shoulder.

QUEEN HELENA (cont'd)
Let's you and I plan to spend more time together. I'd like that.

The Queen gives Ophelia a small embrace, then steps away.

QUEEN HELENA (cont'd)
Stay as long as you'd like. My treat.

The Queen leaves her there. We ANGLE ON OPHELIA. Stuck.

53 INT. PALACE - OPHELIA'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT 5 53

Ophelia spies her PHONE. It's a TEXT from LIAM. It reads: **Where are you?** She reads it and lingers. A BEAT and her PHONE begins to ring. It's LIAM. She doesn't answer.

54 INT. CHURCHILL COLLEGE TRAINING CENTER - POOL - DAY 6 54

Ophelia is swimming when a COMMOTION draws the team's attention to LIAM and MARCUS. The POOL slows to a stop.

LIAM
Sorry. I'm looking for a girl.

54 CONTINUED: 54

Ophelia eyes him. Next to her, Lucy raises her hand.

55 EXT. LONDON PARK - DAY 6 55

Ophelia and Liam sit on a PARK BENCH. A brief distance away, Marcus LINGERS, ever present.

OPHELIA
It's just more than I expected. The tabloids and my Dad and my season.

LIAM
Ophelia, look at me. We can do this. It's me and it's you. My brother was right. The rest of it doesn't matter.

OPHELIA
But don't you see? It's easy for you to say that. You're the Heir to the throne. I'm just a girl who's--

LIAM
--I can't do it without you. This whole week has been more than me. When I think about being King it seems absurd. King Liam. Who the hell am I kidding? But then you look at me the way you do, and I think maybe I could. Maybe I can. I can face it all with you. Because of you. Don't do this.

OPHELIA
I have to. I'm sorry.

He reaches for her, but she pulls herself away and retreats.

LIAM
Ophelia. Please.

But she doesn't look back. Instead, we HEAR the WHIRL of A CAMERA and a PAPARAZZI PHOTOGRAPHER fires off several PICTURES. Liam charges the PHOTOGRAPHER.

LIAM (cont'd)
You're legend, aren't you mate?

Liam SCUFFLES with the man as MARCUS flies in and ARM BARS the PHOTOGRAPHER into submission.

MARCUS
Go to the car, Sir. Please.

Liam looks in the direction of Ophelia's exit, then gives up.

56 EXT. LONDON PARK - DAY 6 56

Once out of sight, Ophelia caves and the TEARS overtake her.

57 INT. PUB - NIGHT 6 57

Liam is getting HAMMERED at a pub while Marcus tries to deflect attention and watch over him.

LIAM
You know what's screwed up? I mean, other than Ophelia breaking up with me? You never drink with me, Marcus.

MARCUS
I'm working, Sir.

LIAM
And stop calling me "Sir". You've been my security detail for like...

MARCUS
Six years.

LIAM
Six years. Have a pint, you pussy.

Marcus scrutinizes Liam, then joins him at the bar.

MARCUS
"Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown." Shakespeare. Henry IV.

LIAM
I know it's Shakespeare, you Irish prick.

MARCUS
Careful. Your name is Irish. So look at it this way, maybe you're illegitimate. In that case, you can't be King anyway.

Liam SNEERS at Marcus.

LIAM
Did you just say--

MARCUS
--that your mother the Queen got owned by an Irishman. Yes, that's what I implied, you potentially Irish bastard.

57 CONTINUED: 57

Liam CHUCKLES, then DRINKS. He speaks genuinely.

LIAM
You ever wonder what it would be like to just disappear, Marcus? Just fade into the canvas? Punch a clock, put in a day's work, be anonymous.

MARCUS
My father, God rest his soul, worked at Blarney Castle for 57 years. Every day, 12 hours a day, helping people kiss the Blarney Stone. Every morning he'd wash away the spit of a thousand tourists, plus the urine from college kids who thought it was a good laugh to piss where a thousand tourists put their mouths each day.

Liam is forced to CHUCKLE at this.

MARCUS (cont'd)
My point is, perspective is everything. I'm sorry Ophelia broke up with you. But all things considered, your life is pretty damn good, Sir. Liam.

LIAM
Liam! There ya go. Well done you.

Liam CONSIDERS Marcus's words. Then...

LIAM (cont'd)
He sounds like a good and noble man, your Father. It's unfortunate his son is a Shakespeare spouting dandy who won't drink a pint. You think Eleanor's Security Detail is like this?

MARCUS
Eleanor's Security Detail was fired, Sir.

Liam NODS then DRINKS again. A lot.

58 INT. PALACE - WINE CELLAR - NIGHT 6 58

JASPER
Perhaps I could call the Keeper Of The Cellar, Your Majesty...

Eleanor leads her NEW SECURITY DETAIL, JASPER, late 20's, through the PALACE'S WINE CELLAR.

58 CONTINUED: 58

It's a labyrinth dating back to the 1700's. Eleanor ignores the NERVOUS GUARD as she navigates the cellar.

ELEANOR
It's "Deputy Yeoman Of The Royal Cellars", and I'm "Your Highness". If you're gonna work here, you better learn the language.

JASPER
Apologies, Your Highness.

ELEANOR
Are you nervous?

JASPER
Very much so, yes.

ELEANOR
Why? Because I'm the Princess or because I'm hot?

JASPER
Because you're the Princess.

Eleanor shoots him a GLANCE.

JASPER (cont'd)
Because you're hot. Both.

ELEANOR
Inappropriate.

JASPER
My apologies, Your--

ELEANOR
--I'm so messing with you. I have serious concerns about your ability to guard my body, Jasper. But the good news for you is that I can take care of myself. Now here, hold out your arms.

He does, and she loads him up with BOTTLES OF WINE.

ELEANOR (cont'd)
You look concerned. There are 25,000 bottles of wine down here, Jasper. I'm the Princess. My house. My wine.

JASPER
Of course. Yes.

58 CONTINUED: (2) 58

ELEANOR
But if the Deputy Yeoman sees you, you're an alcoholic burglar. Got it?

She plops a final bottle into Jasper's arms and starts for...

59 INT. PALACE - KITCHEN - NIGHT 6 59

...the KITCHEN. In better light, Eleanor peruses their take as Jasper LINGERS nervously nearby.

ELEANOR
Wow. This one's a 1942 something or other. OK, after I drink this, you'll need to find a good spot to hide the evidence.

JASPER
But you said...

Just then, SOMEONE ENTERS and Eleanor tosses the bottle to Jasper. It's OPHELIA. She eyes them both, then curtsies.

ELEANOR
Oh, hey.

Eleanor turns to Jasper.

ELEANOR (cont'd)
OK, you can go. You didn't see a thing. But we're going out tomorrow night, so you better lighten up. And dress better.

JASPER
Yes, Your Highness.

Jasper sets down the bottle and scurries away. Eleanor CHUCKLES and retrieves it. Ophelia starts away, as well.

ELEANOR
Stay and drink with me, Phi. You look like you could use one.

OPHELIA
I could definitely use one.

ELEANOR
1942, it is.

Eleanor pops the cork and pours two glasses.

59 CONTINUED: 59

ELEANOR (cont'd)
OK. Some for you... And more for me.

She hands a glass to Ophelia.

ELEANOR (cont'd)
To Robert. And to the fading days of a crumbling empire.

They TOAST and DRINK. Then...

ELEANOR (cont'd)
So? How are things with the new boyfriend?

OPHELIA
We broke up.

ELEANOR
Whatever. I've seen how he looks at you.

OPHELIA
I broke up with him.

ELEANOR
So much for dating a guy for his money. And power. Art, planes, boats, land. A couple castles, the Crown Jewels, and Diplomatic Immunity. But who would put that before love?

Ophelia tries to GRIN, but falls short. Instead...

OPHELIA
I'm sorry about Robert.

ELEANOR
Yeah. I'm sorry about your mom. She was elegant, your mom. And your poor father was so tortured.

OPHELIA
I guess so.

ELEANOR
I know so. When I quit university last year, I used to kick about, try to go unrecognized. Mostly I would end up in the park stealing things like a kind of anti-Robin Hood.

Eleanor GRINS devilishly at this.

59 CONTINUED: (2) 59

ELEANOR (cont'd)
Anyway, I would see your Dad there. And he would sit on a bench, always the same bench, and he would just weep. Ya know? Like he was gutted inside.

This is clearly news to Ophelia.

OPHELIA
Are you sure it was my father?

ELEANOR
He had a book.

OPHELIA
"All Creatures Great and Small".

Eleanor NODS.

OPHELIA (cont'd)
It's how he met my mom. She was reading that book in the park and they had a chat about it.

A BEAT passes as they both CONSIDER this. Then...

ELEANOR
This went on for weeks. Eventually my mother summoned him and told him enough was enough. And you know what he said? He looked her in the eye, his boss, the Queen of England, and he said "sack me or deal with it. My wife deserves a lifetime of tears, and not even the Queen will decide when enough is enough."

Eleanor GRINS, remembering the moment. Still inspired by it.

ELEANOR (cont'd)
Your Dad's a badass. Everyone knows it.

OPHELIA
Everyone except me. I gotta go.

Ophelia rises, then she stops and looks back.

OPHELIA (cont'd)
Hey. Thank you. You're a badass too.

59 CONTINUED: (3) 59

ELEANOR
Nah. I'm just a bitch with power and money. But I do make it look good.

Ophelia finds a gentle GRIN and exits.

60 INT. PALACE - OPHELIA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 6 60

Ophelia finds her father up late working, as usual.

TED
So the definition of grounded--

She EMBRACES him, catching him off guard.

OPHELIA
I miss her so much. And I know you do, too. And I'm sorry for doubting it.

Ophelia steps back and eyes her father.

OPHELIA (cont'd)
Why did you go through it alone? The book and the park. Your grief.

Ted reads his daughter, decides to let her in.

TED
I suppose I was trying to protect you. And I still am. It's what I know.

OPHELIA
I love you, Dad. And I know you're always looking out for me. But I had you both for 18 years, teaching me who to be. Trust that, OK? I need you to.

Ted eyes her proudly.

TED
I do. I will.

OPHELIA
Good. Because I need a favor. Not from my Father, but from the King's Head Of Security.

61 INT. LIAM'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT 6 61

We're IN CLOSE on LIAM as he writes the name of KING SIMON with a SHARPIE on the wall of his DORM ROOM. Nearby, the GRAHAM NORTON show plays on his FLAT SCREEN.

61 CONTINUED: 61

GRAHAM
The guy's sailing along, no chance of actually becoming King. Then he loses his brother and becomes the heir to the throne at the same time. It would be enormously difficult to process, especially while completely sauced--

The TV is switched OFF. Liam finds OPHELIA, remote in hand.

OPHELIA
Marcus was called away. I happen to know some people. Interesting wall.

Now we ANGLE ON THE WALL where Liam has written the NAMES of EVERY ENGLISH and BRITISH MONARCH from 900 AD to the PRESENT.

LIAM
All the Monarchs. My mom made me learn them when I was seven.

There are more than 65 names and they cover the wall.

OPHELIA
I like it. I like my walls to walk that fine line between art and madness.

Ophelia finds a smile but Liam can't match it. A BEAT.

OPHELIA (cont'd)
I'm sorry. The things I said in the park... I didn't mean them.

LIAM
Then why'd you say them?

Ophelia eyes him. What to do? What to say?

OPHELIA
I should have told her no. OK? I know that. I should have been stronger or smarter or something.

LIAM
Who?

OPHELIA
Your Mom. But she's the Queen of England. She controls everything. My father. My access to you. All of it.

He scrutinizes her, processing it all.

61 CONTINUED: (2) 61

OPHELIA (cont'd)
I'm sorry. I want to see you. I need to. But she can't know about it. Liam, I live in the palace. My father loves his job. We have to keep it a secret.

LIAM
I can't do that.

OPHELIA
But the Queen--

LIAM
--will have to deal with it. I'm the next King of England.

Liam even surprises himself with the words. He recovers.

LIAM (cont'd)
All my life, I knew my place. Robert was the golden one. Eleanor was the troubled one. I was easy. I was agreeable. I was controllable. Not anymore.

Liam steps to Ophelia.

LIAM (cont'd)
I don't know who I'm going to be now. Everything's changing. But the one thing that will never change, is that I can't be without you.

Liam eyes her confidently. Honestly.

LIAM (cont'd)
I can't. And I won't. I want you, Ophelia. With a constant ache. I can't not have you.

She looks into his eyes, mesmerized by him.

OPHELIA
I know the feeling.

And with that, they KISS. It's a helluva KISS. Sexy. Breathless. Destined. And no going back.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

62 INT. PALACE - BLUE STATE ROOM - MORNING 7 62

The Queen is being interviewed by Fiona on camera.

FIONA
I'd like to ask you about Prince Liam. He must be inundated with opposing emotions. The loss of Robert, the responsibility of being heir to the throne, and now seemingly a new woman in his life.

QUEEN HELENA
You're referring to Ophelia. Yes, much has been made of their moment at the funeral. The Prince and Ophelia have been friends for a long time. They grew up together and in that moment, Liam took comfort in having her close. But they're friends. Nothing more.

FIONA
We appreciate the clarification. How is Prince Liam adjusting to being next in line for the throne?

QUEEN HELENA
There's really no adjustment necessary. The King is in perfect health. We all count on him remaining so for many, many years to come.

The Queen finds the hint of a grin, and we ANGLE ON...

63 INT. PALACE - STATE DINING ROOM - EVENING 7 63

...the KING. He sits at the head of the table, accompanied by Helena, Eleanor and Cyrus. Both Liam and Robert's CHAIRS are empty. A FOOTMAN now serves them.

ELEANOR
What happened to Prudence? Our server. Prudence.

Cyrus SHRUGS.

CYRUS
She was given her leave. Loose lips.

63 CONTINUED: 63

Cyrus casually returns to his meal as Liam enters.

QUEEN HELENA
I thought you were back at school.

LIAM
I was. Now I'm not.

KING SIMON
The University's been there for a thousand years, I think it'll stand.

The King motions to Liam's chair but Liam takes Robert's chair instead. Everyone falls quiet. Helena DARKENS.

QUEEN HELENA
Take your own chair.

LIAM
I'm good here.

QUEEN HELENA
No, you are not. That's Robert's chair. Now get up.

Liam looks at his mother calmly. It's almost eerie.

LIAM
No. It *was* Robert's chair. It's my chair now.

CYRUS
You should show some respect.

LIAM
Respect is earned, my dear Uncle. You should look into that. Besides, my seat is taken. By my girlfriend.

With that, Ophelia enters. She takes a seat next to Liam.

ELEANOR
Phi. Welcome back. It certainly makes dinner more interesting.

The Queen smiles tersely.

QUEEN HELENA
It certainly does.

Her smile falls away and her eyes NARROW at Ophelia. A tempest is brewing.

64 EXT. CEMETARY - NIGHT 7 64

We ANGLE ON FLOWERS as they're laid on ROBERT'S GRAVE. WIDER, we spy Eleanor glammed up and dressed for a night out. She clutches an open bottle of wine.

ELEANOR
Hey, Robby. I miss you and I'm gonna miss you. But you know me, I'll be fine. You should watch out for Liam though. I think he's gonna need it.

She POURS the WINE on ROBERT'S GRAVE, then steps away to a BLACK SUV where Jasper waits.

JASPER
Back to the palace, then?

ELEANOR
You wish.

65 INT. NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT 7 65

A CROWDED, SWEATY ROCK CLUB. FIDLAR is on stage playing COCAINE as Eleanor enters the FRAY. She grabs a BOTTLE from someone, pounds it, and enters the MOSH PIT as Jasper tries to keep up. Eleanor smiles. It's good to be home.

66 INT. PALACE - KING'S STUDY - NIGHT 7 66

The King stands in the same position as when we first met him - looking out over London. Liam approaches from behind him.

LIAM
It's a beautiful city.

The King smiles gently at his son as Liam joins his view.

LIAM (cont'd)
Are you considering abolishing the Monarchy because of me? Because you don't believe in me?

Simon eyes his son through loving eyes.

KING SIMON
No, Son. I'm considering it because I do believe in you. And because I want more for you.

LIAM
What could be more than King?

66 CONTINUED: 66

KING SIMON
Love. A family raised beyond the tabloids and the walls of the castle. A life lived and not destined.

They take in London as Liam CONSIDER this.

KING SIMON (cont'd)
I like Ophelia very much.

LIAM
So do I.

KING SIMON
Her mother was killed because of me. Because men always chase the wrong things. They stalk power and wealth and frivolous things they think will make them whole.

LIAM
But her father chose honor and duty and service to the King. Those aren't frivolous things.

KING SIMON
But at what cost? If you asked him if he could do it all over again, what road do you think he'd travel?

Liam CONSIDERS this. He gets it.

KING SIMON (cont'd)
Ted chose duty over love. Robert chose honor over his own path. Choose love. Choose your own path. Those are the roads to travel, my son.

They stand together. King and Prince. Father and son. "Wild Kingdom" by Wake Owl begins as...

67 INT. PALACE - ELEANOR'S BEDROOM - MORNING 8 67

...Eleanor wakes up, eye makeup smeared. Hair affright. WIDER, she eyes the GUY sleeping face down. She shoves him.

ELEANOR
Hey. Go home.

We ANGLE ON the MAN as he awakens and sits up. It's JASPER.

ELEANOR (cont'd)
You're welcome. Now get out.

67 CONTINUED: 67

Eleanor lights a CIGARETTE and sits in bed, checking her TEXTS. Jasper dresses quietly. Efficiently.

ELEANOR (cont'd)
I apologize in advance for getting you sacked. But let's face it, you were a dead man walking anyway.

Jasper NODS, head down as he buttons his pants.

JASPER
Probably so. What do you remember from last night, anyway?

ELEANOR
Nothing Jasper. You were perfectly forgettable.

JASPER
Because I remember everything.

Eleanor takes a long drag of her cigarette.

ELEANOR
Yeah, well like I said. You're welcome.

Jasper laces his shoes, still without eye contact.

JASPER
I remember being at the club, I remember the roofies I put in your drink. And I remember every sordid, depraved, self loathing thing you did after that.

Jasper stands and eyes Eleanor. He looks different. Darker.

JASPER (cont'd)
And when I forget...

He holds up his iPhone and waggles it with a smirk.

JASPER (cont'd)
I can always just watch the video.

His smirk falls away as her face REGISTERS things.

JASPER (cont'd)
I think I'll keep this job.

He pulls the sheet away from her body and she flinches and pulls it back, threatened and feeling very naked.

67 CONTINUED: (2) 67

JASPER (cont'd)
I like the benefits.

Jasper snatches her cigarette, KISSES her recoiling cheek and exits, leaving Eleanor exposed and defeated. For now.

68 EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - DAWN 9 68

The King and Cyrus are on a HUNT in the rolling hills of their empire, SHOTGUNS in hand.

CYRUS
Hereditary power. Entrenched privilege. Can you really give it up?

KING SIMON
I can and I will.

CYRUS
And do what? What would you do? Who would you be?

The King eyes his brother.

KING SIMON
No one's ever asked me that before.

He looks out over the fields. The majesty of his kingdom. To the vast grey SEA in the distance.

KING SIMON (CONT'D) (cont'd)
I would've liked to be a fisherman.

The King CONSIDERS this for a BEAT.

KING SIMON (cont'd)
And you, my brother. If you could have chosen your own destiny? If you could've been anything at all? What would you have been?

Cyrus eyes him without flinching.

CYRUS
King.

The KING eyes his brother, then trails ahead. Cyrus watches him go, then RAISES his SHOTGUN and lines up the King in his sights. His finger TIGHTENS on the TRIGGER when SUDDENLY... PHEASANTS take flight and a SHOT rings out.

The KING whirls around as a solitary PHEASANT falls from the sky, dead. The KING eyes the fallen bird, then Cyrus.

68 CONTINUED: 68

KING SIMON (CONT'D)
That was close, my brother.

Cyrus smiles. A devilish, wicked, knowing GRIN.

CYRUS
Long live the King.

69 INT. PALACE - GRAND ENTRANCE - DAY 9 69

Liam and Ophelia eye each other. Like Butch and Sundance before their last hurrah.

LIAM
Hey. I want you to know, no matter what, I'll always be there for you.

She smiles gently at him, comforted by this.

OPHELIA
And I want you to know, if things change and all this goes away, I'll be ridiculously happy just being with you. Unless some other hot boy becomes King.

They KISS. Then they both don SUNGLASSES and exit into...

70 EXT. PALACE - QUADRANGLE - DAY 9 70

...the FRENZY and CRUSH of a GAUNTLET of PAPARAZZI. Liam takes Ophelia's HAND as they navigate the crush of FLASHBULBS, CAMERAS, MICROPHONES and QUESTIONS.

In a WINDOW high above it all, QUEEN HELENA watches them, her cunning, intimidating GAZE taking us to...

BLACK.

END OF PILOT